

*With B.M.'s compliments.*

*17.8.96*

THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*of Gainsborough.*

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ANNUAL

❖ REPORT ❖

OF THE

Health, Sanitary Condition, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR 1895,

BY

DRAPER MACKINDER, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO THE  
*Chairman and Councillors of the Urban  
District Council of Gainsborough.*

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The Medical Officer's Report for the year 1895.

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GENTLEMEN,

Viewed from the standpoint of sanitation the year 1895 left to us the impress of encouraging progress for future generations to study, improve and perpetuate. The seasons we cannot regulate, for they come and go in fulfilment of an unerring law; nor can we arrest or speed the friendly or militant cloud. Even the sunbeams play around us irrespective of our will or desert and seem so kindly to dictate the path over which we should travel for our own and others' good. We cannot change the Omnipotent ruling, but we can think and remember that the law which governs the Universe governs ourselves who are simply selected bits of automatic machinery turned out of nature's majestic workshop for ultimate use and exhibition!—and act accordingly.

Onward we have been moving and still we continue to move up the pathway of enlightenment and freedom, not without the opposition of sundry barricades of a material and immaterial character to overcome, be it remembered, but still onward and with quickening pace, like a victorious host with truth and honour in its van and rear, inviting and propelling unyielding advance.

Our legitimate enemies are darkness and dirt, and the accumulations, visible and invisible, of pollutions of every kind which tend to the deterioration of moral and physical health; and against these we fight, assured as we are by the doings of others as well as ourselves that purity and light, in whatever garb, are the safest passwords to happiness and success.

Year by year let our progress be worthy of us, and our retrospect satisfactory.

## The Weather of 1895.

With regard to the meteorology of the year as it affected the whole country, I think I may, without question, apply the qualifying epithet *phenomenal*, since, by the reports of the specialists, the cold and the heat manifested themselves in a very unusual fashion, our own district sharing fairly in the general distribution. I will borrow from others that which could not be the result of my own observation and then give such notes as I was induced to take after my attention had been awakened to the importance of a local record. Afterwards I will present you with my own deductions as to how far the weather characteristics have provoked or influenced the diseases to which we have been subjected and how far these "ills" have swollen the table of our mortality.

*Of the whole Country.* "Much as English people dislike those harsh vagaries which constitute the most disagreeable side of the climate of these Islands, the Kaleidoscopic variability of our weather insures for us at least one common recompense, and that is a perpetual interest in the altogether unlooked for succession of combinations which every year brings forth as its own special peculiarities. Looking back upon the year which has just passed away, we find it a good illustration of the glorious uncertainty characteristic of the Meteorological elements over the British Isles, for in many respects its behaviour was unlike that of any other year within living memory. Like its immediate predecessor, it opened, after a mild, soft Christmas week, with decidedly cold weather all over the Country, but here the comparison ends, for whereas the cold in 1894 lasted only nine or ten days, in 1895 it lasted as many weeks. Indeed there was severe Arctic weather almost uninterruptedly through the 10 weeks down to the middle of March. With the exception of the third week in January, when the temperature was slightly above the Normal in the South-coast of England, for the entire period of 70 days the temperature of the whole British Isles was 7 degrees below normal, an enormous deficiency for such a long spell, 24 degrees being the average difference between our colder and warmer months.

The least affected was the north of Scotland which registered  $5\frac{1}{4}$  degrees too low. While the South-west of England and the east and west of Scotland were  $7\frac{1}{2}$  short, the South of England  $7\frac{3}{4}$  deg., in the Midland Counties  $8\frac{1}{4}$  deg. Out of the 10 weeks by far the most severe weather occurred in the three weeks at the middle of Feb., their temperature being respectively  $10\frac{1}{4}$  deg.,  $13\frac{3}{4}$  deg., and  $12\frac{3}{4}$  deg., below the averages, individual districts being 15 deg. and more to the bad, the Midlands showing a loss of 18 deg. for the middle week and nearly  $15\frac{1}{2}$  deg. for the three weeks. Altogether, during this memorial frost, say the scientists, there must have been many places where the temperature was from 20 deg. to nearly 50 deg. below the freezing point. Between February 6th and 20th there was only one day when the readings in several parts of the Country were not below Zero. In Ireland the Mercury passed under this point on February 7th.

*The Names of places selected from a large number of Records of very low temperatures:*—The degrees mentioned are below Zero and

therefore, if added to 32, the freezing point, they will give the temperature indicated. This knowledge may be interesting to some.

Feb. 7, Barkby 10 deg.; 8, Aviemore 13 deg., Braemar 12 deg.; 9, Aviemore and Braemar 11 deg.; 10, Braemar 14 deg.; 10, Blair Athol 13 deg., Drumlanrig 11 deg.; 11, Braemar 17 deg.; Buxton 11 deg.; 16, 17 and 18, Aviemore 11 deg. each day. At Greenwich Observatory February's mean temperature was 28.9 deg., the lowest obtained for any February back as far as the year 1771, the nearest to it being 29.4 deg. for February 1855. Compared with averages, the month of February 1895, was 9.9 deg. below that for the previous 124 years, and 10.5 deg. short of that for 54 years.

This exceptional character of the great frost will be remembered for the extent of the discomfort which it occasioned by freezing the water mains in many towns at a depth of 2 to 4 feet from the surface. The water famine was indeed acute, many houses being without it for nearly four months, and nothing like it had ever been known before. Apart from the severity of the frost, the most interesting feature of this long spell of cold was the very remarkable thunderstorm and blizzard of snow and hail which swept down the east of England on January 23, from Leeds across London to Crowborough in Essex, travelling at a rate of 47 miles an hour, and doing much damage. For a winter storm the lightning and thunder were of extraordinary violence, but the duration short—about a quarter of an hour.

Early in March the wintry weather gave way to much more agreeable conditions, for with one or two brief interruptions, including the usual "May Snap," there was a fine warm period of some four months duration of brilliant sunny days. In April, May and June numbers of places registered 12 to 16 hours of bright sunshine some days, and at a few of the southern stations, the totals for May and June exceeded 300 hours per month or a daily average of 10 hours. Occasional weeks had an average of more than 12 hours a day. Towards the end of May 80 deg. and upwards was not uncommon. About Lady-day there was a hard gale. During the first six months drougthy weather prevailed, the rainfall being much below the average; the second half year helped to restore the equilibrium, but didn't quite succeed.

About the middle of July the warmth and dryness were replaced by low temperatures and rain and several severe thunderstorms, a condition which lasted till the middle of August and sadly interfered with harvest operations. After this to the end of September, save for a few thunderstorms, we had again beautiful weather. The thunderstorm which happened on August 22 over London is worthy of record:—39 flashes of lightning were registered in a minute, 111 in five minutes, 667 in an hour. For 100 seconds the thunder was absolutely continuous, the peal being broken only twice. for about 5 seconds in 235 seconds. In the last week of September the theometrical readings were often between 80 and 88 deg. and from 90<sup>^</sup> to 100 deg. on the Continent, beating the record for more than 200 years! At South Molton, Devon, on Sept. 28, 136 deg. in the sun and 89 deg. in the shade were registered. ^ 22

The remainder of the year was marked by wet and dry, warm and cold spells, and several gales; the sharpest frost being near the end of October.

The Subjoined Table gives a Summary of the Weather as experienced by our Country in 1895.

Months.	Temperature.					Rainfall.			
	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Below or Above Average.	Difference from 1894	Number of Rainy Days.	Total Fall.	Difference from Average.	Difference from 1894
	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.		In.	In.	In.
January . . . .	52	18	34.1	— 4.9	— 4.3	21	1.87	— 0.25	— 1.31
February . .	47	10	29.4	— 11.1	— 12.5	6	0.16	— 1.57	— 1.56
March . . . . .	64	25	43.7	+ 1.0	— 1.6	16	1.23	— 0.26	+ 0.26
April . . . . .	67	30	49.0	+ 1.1	— 3.3	12	1.46	— 0.38	+ 0.03
May . . . . .	85	35	56.6	+ 3.2	+ 5.3	5	0.34	— 1.52	— 1.63
June . . . . .	82	42	61.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.9	6	0.20	— 1.99	— 2.00
July . . . . .	82	47	62.9	— 0.3	— 0.2	15	4.03	+ 1.65	+ 0.65
August . . . .	81	44	62.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.4	17	2.84	+ 0.63	— 0.16
September . .	86	38	63.3	+ 5.3	+ 8.3	3	0.95	— 1.40	— 0.36
October . . . .	75	25	46.7	— 3.0	— 4.0	14	3.10	+ 0.53	— 1.20
November . .	64	31	48.1	+ 4.4	+ 0.9	18	3.01	+ 0.78	— 0.26
December . .	56	26	40.7	+ 1.7	— 1.1	17	2.24	+ 0.14	— 0.27
The Year Total	86	10	49.9	— 0.1	— 0.7	150	21.43	— 3.56	— 7.27

## Public Health in 1895.

For the purpose of contrasting our local with the general health of the country during the year 1895, I hereunder give a few items which may serve as stimulating memoires for the curious and interested in such special matters.

For the purpose of obtaining same reliable data whereon to base his periodical Reports of Deaths, &c., the Registrar General has called from the Universal returns 33 Urban Districts whose aggregate population equalled 10,591,530 at the middle of 1895, of which large number 4,392,346 were within the area of 117 square miles which constitutes the inner London.

Controlled by the vicissitudes of weather different diseases prevailed, and different ages emphasized the maximum mortality, the cold affecting the old, the hot weather the very young most, as in preceding years, but this year was most marked by unanticipated extremes.

The year 1894 passed away in congenial weather; but 1895 was initiated with a shiver, and the train of its unwelcome visitors came rushing along despite the manifestation of benumbed and thickly covered fingers. The usual dense fogs were conspicuous by their absence, a circumstance which made the cold less prejudicial to health during the three or four earliest weeks of the year; but afterwards the death rate gave a sudden rise, and the undertaker's vocation seemed to be only one with a quotation much above par. Re-invigorated the old influenza returned and slew many who could ill be spared, and fevers of an undefined as well as those of a well marked type were diffused among the busy and idle alike. With June came the Diarrhœa, Measles, *et hoc genus omne* which run away with the babes, the favouring decompositions, which moisture and warmth induce, helping the Herods of infant life. The weather after September was of an alternating character, so netimes very warm and sometimes very cold, and it left its mark in the small longitudinal upheavings within the precincts of the cemetery lines.

In the following table I have given a bird's eye view of the 33 places referred to above with their names in the order of their salubrity as stamped by their respective death rates. An examination of this table, will, I doubt not, repay the respective inquisitors for the little time stolen from their relaxations, even in these busy materialist days, should it awaken in them the desire to investigate the causes of disease and apply the knowledge so acquired in the promotion of intelligent sanitation and the banishment of all morbid agencies from the haunts and homes of men.

It will be observed that Croydon again bears away the palm, whilst Liverpool is the last in the race for better health, though it has improved since most of its cellars have been firmly barred against what may be properly called the *lowest* class. London, the most

healthy metropolis in the world and the biggest hive that was ever known, has its full share of honey, if prolonged existence may be worthy of such a qualification, for it occupies with Bradford a middle place. But I need not particularise further, lest I should deprive you of the pleasure of picking out and comparing for yourselves the other towns, save—by way of parenthesis—directing your attention to Lancashire and Yorkshire whose bills of health are very unlike. And why? Might it not be the interesting ridges? coupled with other natural and unnatural causes? There may be many causes, but the hills and the wind will not, I imagine, be the least potent. Now, presuming that the position of Lancashire and the occupation of its people favour the generation of obnoxious effluvia, these would be carried by the prevailing westerly winds over Yorkshire until opposed by the higher land, the ridges of which, like well defended barricades, would cause the said effluvia to be reflected or to retreat to the districts whence they came—diluted, it might be by the journey, but not wholly decomposed. These inimical vapours would move with the lower strata of air, but the higher and more pure would smile at the pigmy obstructions and pursue their journey without interruption. But this higher current of air would do something more, for by its movement, it would create a vacuum below and suck up another set of poisons which might be deposited in the sea and—be disinfected. Hence the difference and hence the altered sequence of events in the counties of Lancaster and York.

The Yorkshire hills high in the air  
 Won't let their people try to share  
     With Lancashire the smell  
 Which speaks of sickness lurking near,  
 Of fevers, purgings hard to bear,  
     And tells where bad germs dwell.  
 These isolaters plainly show  
 What every mortal ought to know.

Beyond the 33 places tabulated on the next page, it may be well, just to show how the whole British Isles were equally influenced by the same extremely eccentric weather.

Edinburgh—	First Quarter	30.5	2-3-4 quarter	17.5	the year	20.8
Glasgow—	„	34.9	„	„	19.7	„ 23.4
Dublin—	„	37.1	„	„	24.9	„ 28.0

The per 1,000 Death-rate of the 33 under-mentioned Towns the aggregate population of which is 10,591,530.

1895	TOWNS.	1 Quarter	2—3—4 Quarters	Year.	TOWNS.	1 Quarter	2—3—4 Quarters	Year.	1895
1	Croydon	20.4	12.5	14.5	18	Plymouth	26.2	18.0	20.1
2	Derby	18.8	16.1	16.7	19	Birmingham	23.5	19.2	20.3
3	Huddersfield	22.15	15.0	16.9	20 {	Leeds	24.6	19.1	20.4
4	Leicester	18.3	16.9	17.3	21 {	Sheffield	22.6	19.7	20.4
5 {	Portsmouth	23.5	15.9	17.8	22	Newcastle	23.5	19.5	20.5
6 {	Wrexham	20.6	16.9	17.8	23	Hull	20.8	20.9	20.0
7	Bristol	24.5	16.0	18.1	24 {	Oldham	25.9	20.4	21.8
8	Cardiff	22.4	16.8	18.2	25 {	Sunderland	22.9	21.4	21.8
9	Swansea	22.2	17.0	18.3	26	Burnley	24.3	23.1	23.4
10	Brighton	28.8	15.6	18.9	27	Preston	28.0	22.6	33.9
11	Nottingham	24.9	17.1	19.0	28	Bolton	26.2	23.3	24.0
12 {	Birkenhead	22.3	18.4	19.3	29	Wolverhampton	28.2	23.1	24.4
13 {	Norwich	20.4	19.0	19.3	30	Manchester	27.5	24.5	25.2
14	Halifax	25.1	17.3	19.3	31	Salford	23.1	25.5	25.7
15	Gateshead	21.9	18.8	19.5	32	Blackburn	29.6	25.3	26.3
16 {	Bradford	23.4	18.7	19.8	33	Liverpool	34.2	27.0	28.8
17 {	London	26.0	17.8	19.8					
Total Average					25.2 19.1 20.6				

## The Area of Gainsborough and its Population.

The area of our town is 2,118 acres and its population according to the census of 1871 was 7,564; 1881—10,939; 1891—14,346; at the end of 1891 it was approximately 14,601; at the end of 1892 it was 15,000; at the end of 1893 it was 16,000; at the end of 1894 it was 17,000; at the end of 1895—18,000, the natural increase for the year being 275 + 725 Immigration = 1,000, the approximate estimate of course. The average annual augmentation being: census 1871 to 1881, equal to 337.5; the census 1881 to 1891 equal 340.7; estimated for 1892, equal 399; estimated for 1893, equal 1,000; estimated for 1894, equal 1,000; and estimated for 1895—1,000 more, equal 18,000.

### Houses.

At the census of 1871 the number of houses were 1,680; at the census of 1881 the number of houses 2,319; at the census of 1891 the number of houses were 2,931.

From census 1891 to the end of year 53 more houses were built, and during the year 1892—144 equal 197 plus 9,931 equal 3,128 at the end of 1892. In 1893 there were 180 houses built, making at the end of December 3,308; in 1894 there were 99 more added, equal 3,407; and in 1895, Mr. Riley informs me 166 new houses brought up our total to 3,573.

The 1,680 mentioned in the census of 1871 were the houses then occupied, the unoccupied ones not being enumerated. Of the 2,319 houses at the census of 1881, 68 were minus tenants; in 1891 a few only were empty, and in 1892-3-4 deserted houses were the reverse of plentiful, in the few that were kept possession of the impecunious slum district, and remain on sufferance only. For the tendency to migrate to the outer ring is a perceptibly growing quantity, and the distenanted dwellings must eventuate in the erection of better ones with more open and more healthy surroundings. Nearly all the new houses are occupied before they are finished.

Hence in the decade 1871—1881 there were built.....639 houses  
in the decade 1881—1891 there were built.....612 houses  
from the census 1891 to the end of the year .

			there were built... 53 houses
during the year 1892	there were built	.....	144 houses
„ „ 1893	„		180 houses
„ „ 1894	„		99 houses
„ „ 1895	„		166 houses

making a total at the end of 1895 of 3,573 houses. And the number of occupants per house were in 1871—4.50. 1881—4.85. 1891—4.72. 1892—4.71. 1893—4.83. 1894—4.90. 1895—5.00.

And this five inhabitants per house in 1895, not only endorses my calculation of our present population, but demonstrates in a remarkable manner the persistent ratio of houses and people, and, I might add, emphasises our progress in all that tends to elevate and felicitate those for whom our best endeavours are rarely found wanting.

The new houses are chiefly the dwellings of our upper artisans, for the lower strata smaller ones, healthy and low rented, are still a desideratum; though I am glad to find that our poorest helpers are being quietly provided with homes worthy of the name so dear to every human heart. And my pleasure is enhanced by the emulation I witness among the cottagers wherever I thread my way along the new streets and roads of our expanding town. Emulation in neatness and sweetness and adornments of every kind, especially the outside decorations towards which fair Flora lends a generous hand. For by such works the sanitarian knows that health and every quality of our nature is improved and diffused for the welfare of all.

As a guest of the Lord of the Manor, at the Old Hall, I should like to meet Darwin and Huxley and Paxton and Ruskin and a few more of that ilk, and hear a discussion on Evolution with the Bees of our Hive for the illustration of some knotty points—i.e. if those bright souls would condescend for the nonce just to re-habilitate in mundane garb! We are rising.

## Births.

To facilitate comparison and comment I will tabulate the last four years, the time since the census, the fourth being the year recently expired.

In 1892 there were born—

Males 264, Females 214, equal 478 children, equal to 31.86 per 1,000 inhabitants.

1893	„	279,	„	251,	„	530	„	„	31.20	„	„
1894	„	290,	„	261,	„	551	„	„	32.41	„	„
1895	„	267,	„	295,	„	564	„	„	31.33	„	„

A fairly equal per thousand ratio of the tiny new comers, 1894 winning the race by a head.

Then in 1892, out of 478 births, there was an excess of 50 males;

„	1893,	„	530	„	„	„	„	28	„	;
„	1894,	„	551	„	„	„	„	29	„	;
„	1895,	„	564	„	„	„	„	28 females!		

“‘Tis strange—but true; for truth is always strange,  
Stranger than fiction!”

Yes, three years during which the boys greatly predominated! It is

strange, and the Government may not have had anything to do with it; but the *fact* of so large a majority seems to demonstrate the sagacity of the people who elected a Union Government! Be that as it may, since the Ministry changed hands domestic matters have been better attended to;—the girls are growing again, and the primroses too!

*The most and least prolific months of the last four years.*

In 1892 August was the most prolific month, with a total of 47—32 males & 15 females

„	June	„	least	„	„	10—3	„	7	„
In 1893	April	„	most	„	„	57—31	„	26	„
„	February,	„	least	„	„	33—21	„	12	„
In 1894	June	„	most	„	„	53—26	„	27	„
„	Sept.	„	least	„	„	37—16	„	21	„
In 1895	January	„	most	„	„	59—31	„	28	„
„	February,	„	least	„	„	40—22	„	20	„

Curious! These little helpless brats disregard the vicissitudes of weather and come at all seasons without any preparation and with less than the railway porter's politeness, for they never say—"by leave!" It's always, I'm here, phonetically expressed and understandable to all the world. Why don't they do what the swallows and cuckoos do when the thermometers tittle the toes? Perhaps they come at the time most suitable to their tiny constitutions, and their mothers are presumed to know it. But I sometimes fancy they don't, because they occasionally do what a bird-mother would never do, for they stuff them with food unsuitable for such tender stomachs, produce indigestion, atrophy and other enfeebling conditions, prostrate their vital powers, and then, having prepared the road, invite the cruel microbes to finish the kindly intended but sadly mistaken work.

Others, anxious for vigorous offspring, adapt what they imagine to be the hardening process, and expose their little ones to frigid surroundings, irrespective of individual susceptibility or the dictates of the thermometer. "The children must be hardened."

The beautiful exotic was planted in the winter garden, by mistake—and it died!

# Deaths.

The deaths in 1892 were 114 males, 125 females, equal 239 and 15.93 per 1,000.

1893	157	150	307	17.20
1894	185	105	240	14.23
1895	169	120	289	13.25

In 1892 the females preponderated, 11 being the excess; in 1893, the males 7 being the excess.

In 1894 the males 30 " " in 1895 " 49 "

The Girls like the Leap Year.

## The most and the least fatal months of the last four years.

In 1892	January was the most fatal month, with its 29 deaths—12 males and 17 females.
"	June was the least " with its 10 " 3 " 7 "
In 1893	July was the most " 45 " 24 " 21 "
"	June was the least " 15 " 10 " 5 "
In 1894	October was the most " 27 " 13 " 14 "
"	July was the least " 10 " 7 " 3 "
In 1895	February was the most " 30 " 17 " 13 "
"	May the least " 12 " 9 " 3 "

In 1892 of the 239 reg. deaths 78 were under 1 year. 27—1 & und. 5. 9—5 & und. 15. 14—15 & und. 25. 52—25 & und. 60. 59—60 & upwards												
In 1893	307	89	“	32	7	“	13	“	75	“	91	“
In 1894	240	86	“	18	12	“	5	“	54	“	65	“
In 1895	289	114	“	30	8	“	7	“	58	“	72	“

Calendar of Deaths of Sixty Years and Upwards, for the four years 1892--5.

MONTH	1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.	
	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
January ..	75	61 66 70 74	74 79 79	68 76 80 81 82 82 86	60 64 71 71 75 78 80	65 69 71 77 89	69 79 79 80	77 86
February ..	64 73 77	65	64 75 80 86	64 74 78 82 82 83	60 62 76 82	72 76 82	64 67 69 71 73 73 89	67 85 86
March .....	80 81	64 68 75 78	65 74 79 81	64 64 66 73 75	67 73	68 83	60 73 75	60 68 74 80
April .....	61 65 79 83	62 66 66 68	64 78 79 84	60 69 71 75 78	78 85	65 72 85	65 66 75 78 80	72 92
May .....	74 88	62 64 68 69 65 80 83	80	60 66 80 83 83	72	66	65 74	64 64 67 79 84 93
June .....	70	72	81	67 77 82 83 84	68	70 77 80	60 78 80 65 68 74	61 76
July .....	63 81 89		60 62 62 65 76 76 67 73 75		75	63		
August .....	61 69	60	67 73 75 68 71		62 64	85	62 76 77 79 82 85	71 79 79 83
September	82	60	62 62 82 87	67 73 73 81	66 78	76 86 95	76	61
October .....	77	66 82	76 90	62 86	70 74 81 85 86	73 81	63 67 67 77	
November..	65 72	72 73 84	63 77 78	63 69 77	65 68 75 77 80	61 66 80 82	78 78 84	66 83
December ..	66 68 77 77 86	63 66 74	63 66 73 78 80 81	66 72 74 75 83	63 71 75 83	70	74 78	73 80
Total	27 M=311 yrs. 31 F=328 yrs.		41 M=457 ys. 49 F=541 ys		36 M=388 yrs. 29 F=322 yrs.		43 M=514 yrs. 28 F=319 yrs.	
Grand Total	27 M + 31 F = 58 people = 639 ys.		41 M + 49 F = 90 people = 922 yrs.		36 M + 29 F = 65 people = 710 ys.		43 M + 28 F = 71 people = 833 yrs.	

## Calendar of extremes of Death Ages.

January.	The youngest was a female age 16 days ; the oldest was a female 86 years				
February	„	„	newborn ;	„	male 89 „
March	„	„	age 9 days	„	female 80 „
April	„	male	„ 7 months	„	„ 92 „
May	„	„	„ 2 hours	„	„ 74 „
June	„	„	„ 13 days	„	„ 93 „
July	„	„	„ 8 hours	„	„ 76 „
August	„	„	„ 10 days	„	male 85 „
September	„	„	„ 4 days	„	„ 76 „
October	„	„	„ 12 hours	„	„ 77 „
November	„	„	„ 2 days	„	„ 84 „
December	„	female	„ 4 days	„	female 80 „

The widow, who occupied the position of senior wrangler, died in our Union Hospital, whither she had been removed for better accommodation and purer air. All her senses were good to the last, and her intellect as well. Cruel cancer killed her. In the same Union Hospital the *newborn* girl tried to commit suicide before she had spoken to anybody, fearing, perhaps, some contamination from the evil spirits of this envious vulgar world.

The second in the senior scale was a female, in comfortable circumstances, who died in the town of influenza—that scourge feared by both timid and brave.

In our Urbar District there were no centenarians in 1895, but my friend, the Rural M. O. H. managed to catch one, and so made up for my deficiency, and contributed a paragraph for the edification of those who wish to outlive unpleasant prophecies ; Truly centenarians seem to be on the increase, and, if they continue to multiply, competitive examinations for old fogies will have to be instituted and made very strong ! Perhaps, after all, it is only the reporter—detectives who are on the *qui vive* for specimens, and not dame nature who has been changing her plan.

Although I never published it, I knew a Medico who for more than 365 days pushed his nimble feet under the breakfast table of the second century of his existence. He took long walks daily and used to call on his friends for a chat on politics and shares. A veritable *rara avis* this doctor was—for he had been in many continental wars, a total abstainer for some thirty years, and he lived like an animal that wont eat meat, for more than a quarter of his eventful life.

One day when this poor fellow was trying to out-manœuvre the impertinent influenza he quietly passed away—overstepping, as it were, in sacred silence, the boundary which so distinctly separates incomprehensible power from the most laudable achievements of the greatest man.

Up to the last my friend retained all his senses; but, unfortunately, he lost his presence of mind a little too soon and forgot to tell his Esculapian associates how to toil and luxuriate on less than "the living wage!"

Weep not, ye phagocytes, we shall all be microbes soon!

## The Union Hospital and House.

Here there were 26 deaths—16 males—10 females—of whom ten males and five females were over 60 years old; 6—five males and 1 female between 50 and 60 years; one female was 42 years, one 14 years, one female 5 months, one ditto 2 month, and 1 male was only 13 days.

Of the post hexagenarian period there died in the decade 60—70 two m. 70—80 five m. 80—90 three m.

„ „ „ „ one f. „ three f. „ 0. 90—100 1 f.

the oldest women being 93 years. The oldest man was 89: but one man, whose age was given at 80, said he was above a hundred. In 1894 there were only 18 deaths, 15 of which were above 60 years, and 1 under; whereas this year there were also 15 above 60 years, but six under, the half of them being under six months. And the oldest in 1894 was a woman who had entered on her 96th year, exceeding by two years the oldest woman in 1895. The increase of 8 deaths over 1894 would appear to indicate a more fatal form of disease or accident, or less salubrious surroundings. But I do not think that that would be a correct explanation of the lengthened record, if by salubrious environment we coupled the epithet immediate. The real cause of the augmented mortality was, I believe, the reception of more bad cases from a more extended area, our country as well as our town friends having favoured us with many seriously afflicted and hopelessly incurable people.

## Diseases.

A glance at the accompanying table of Registered Births and Deaths will, at once, convey to the mind a sort of photographic impress of what passed under our observation in 1895, with reference to diseases and accidents in their fatal form; and enable us, perhaps, to perceive to what extent sickness prevailed in our midst and how far our sanitary knowledge helped us to discover the source whence it came, as well as the means whereby we might antagonise the remorseless opposers of our science and skill.

Though, as in other places, we had much sickness during the year, and not a little of a troublesome, protracted and dangerous

kind, we were the victors in the combat and escaped, in an encouraging manner, a frequent fatal issue; for our death-rate was the smallest we have known, being only 13.25 per 1,000 of our population.

You will not fail to notice that the five columns which introduce the Zymotic diseases had not a single occupant in 1895, and the 6th, whooping-cough, could only muster five recruits, all very young; whilst under the heading of "Continued Fevers," there were but three deaths.

The Influenza, that very demonstrative invader of all the nerves, after a brief and feigned retreat, returned reinvigorated and slaughtered nearly double the number it killed in the previous year when eight represented the total, the number for this year being 15, three of whom were under five years old. January, February, September, October and November, marked the length of a truce, or of separate truces.

Diarrhœa made prisoners of 29, of whom two only were above the infantile age, and September was the most fatal month, with its ominous 14 surplus little ones.

Phthisis was merciful and only snatched away 17 souls, four less than 1894.

Of other lung diseases, there were 46, twenty three of which were five years of age. In 1894 there were 48 cases of this kind, 22 being within the margin of the first red five.

Heart disease was accountable for 14 deaths.

The last column of my Table is the miscellaneous one and comprehends all sorts of diseases of an individual or personal kind and although they may embrace many of the features which undermine the citidal of health, they do not usually fall within the jurisdiction of Public Authorities.

There are in this column 143 cases enumerated, or nearly half the total number of deaths for the year; and of this 143 there were 75, or a little more than half under five years of age.

## Inquests.

In 1893 there were 13 Inquests in our town; in 1894 there were 9; and in 1895 there were 14, viz;—

1. Jan. Male, age 79 years, verdict, senile decay.
2. Feb. Female, newborn, ,, weakness aggravated by strangulation by the cord at birth.
3. ,, Male, age 50 years, ,, rupture of an aneurism of the Aorta.
4. Mar. Female ,, 1 month, ,, Apoplexy.

5. May. Male, aged 40 years, verdict, fracture of skull caused by a fall during a fit of apoplexy.
6. June. Female, „ 18 months, „ suffocation.
7. July. Male „ 8 weeks. „ starvation.
8. „ „ „ 25 years „ manslaughter.
9. Sept. „ „ 58 years „ bursting of a blood-vessel in the lungs.
10. Oct. „ „ 4 months „ accidentally overlaid in bed.
11. „ „ „ 3 years „ shock caused by being accidentally burned.
12. Nov. „ „ 78 years „ apoplexy.
13. „ Female, „ 60 years „ Failure of heart's action. apoplexy.
14. Dec. „ „ 3 years „ shock caused by burns.

## Nursing.

Relief to the sufferer, in whatever way administered, comes like a sunbeam after a thunderstorm and brightens all around. The darkened eye, the clouded wit, the sunken feature, the parched tongue, the burning skin, the shivering frame, the rebellious pulse, the frantic nerve and the prostrate form all show alike the grateful rest offered for the removal of disease and pain. For the darkened eye once more becomes bright, the clouded wit flashes forth its ray, the sunken feature swells to its former returned self, the parched tongue resumes its elastic condition, the burning skin becomes cool and moist, the shivering frame bespeaks its returning glow, the rebellious pulse no longer works in miniature the tempest's wave or the intermittent ripple of the Squire's pond, the frantic nerve regains its quiescent activity and repose, and the prostrate form, from its lifeless incapacity and claylike mould, rises, god-like erect, in all the full majesty of its proud estate!

But to whom is the sufferer indebted for the wonderful restoration? Not to the physician alone, nor yet to the surgeon with all armature of polished knives and probes, not to the physicist, the philosopher, the chemist with all the elements at his finger's end; not to the microscopist, the demonstrator of microbes of the innocent or injurious kind; nor yet to the pharmaceutical dispenser of vapours and drugs; nor to these, singly or combined, as they might be, under one convexity of flesh and bone; but to this one or those helped by the assuring presence of—the nurse.

That sister-nurse, I mean, who seems to come straight way from some tutorial mansion above to aid the aiders of the afflicted below. The sister-nurses, instructed and skilled, whose soothing words, sweet, persuasive smiles and gentle angelic touch helps forward with express speed the return of the timid sufferer to his wonted or improved felicity and health.

Hitherto I have preserved silence on the matter of nursing, but I now feel compelled to introduce the subject and give praise where deserved, and I have much pleasure in being able to say that Gainsborough ought to be proud of its Nurses Home and of the present trained, kind and most indefatigable nurses who, often at the risk of their own lives, have done much to keep down the table of our mortality.

I thank them, the whole faculty to which I belong thank them, and I feel sure these ladies have the warmest thanks of all the men, women and children of our town whose interest they have so faithfully served.

## Overpressure.

Short hours give idle people something to talk about and encourages them in the thought that they are about to have less work and more pay no matter who may find and whence comes the "*siller*." But short hours, rationally interpreted, means a shorter number of hours of honest, earnest labour, whereby the industrious toiler ought to be able to earn a "living wage" and provide his employer with a reasonable profit on his invested capital, and then, like an honest man, the employée should enjoy with his superfluous earnings such relaxation as suits his taste and capacity. Short hours and idleness reverses the order of nature and leads to disappointments and degrading pursuits—never to the ennobling pleasures of life, But overpressure is generally applied to the working of the brain in the infantile season and emphatically to those children of tender organization and scanty means who are expected to do on insufficient nourishment what the strong and well nourished find a difficulty in accomplishing; for in these days of competitive examinations and payment by results little heed is taken of children's failings and susceptibilities.

As I remarked in a former report—headache, dyspepsia and short-sightedness are becoming a perceptibly increasing quantity among the juveniles of our day, especially among the ill-fed and physically feeble, and I fear these evils will be perpetuated unless, taking time by the forelock, we acquire and apply a better knowledge of Nature's several demands, and help in the full development of all.

For children's bodies and limbs, like the green twigs, are easily made to assume unnatural forms, and the absence of fresh air and nourishment favour the uncomely descent. Nor is the physical

distortion the only crying fault, for the susceptible and debilitated brain pleads its hysterical sympathy and weeps instead of cheerfully moving on.

Our remedy should be: healthy homes, wholesome dietary, sunlight and exercise in the open air, moderate scholastic discipline, short lessons, small books and large print. And let the short-sighted be trained to eye the larger objects in the beautiful green fields, and the picturesque scenes around.

And now, as "our old town" is expanding its boundaries with electric rapidity, and giving to its new streets a nomenclature worthy of its intelligent inhabitants, our school children, in the summer months, instead of spoiling their eyes and brains with much forced packing, should be sometimes trotted out and given not only practical instruction in local topography, but interesting peripatetic lectures about the sayings and doings of the great men and women whose names they will recognise at every turn. The market place of course would be suggestive of commerce and the rule of three—the producer, the seller and the consumer; the clock, from its conspicuous elevation would remind them of public-spirited men and the great value of time; whilst the removal of the Russian cannon to its present site would serve as a text for a moral on the misery and ruin provoked by wasteful habits and insensate war.

Around the Old Hall, with its ancient memories of light and shade, our pupils could be shown a constellation of names of the living and recently dead, who left their footprints to be followed or avoided as the arrows of the good and the wise may now and hereafter faithfully indicate. And then, from the centre to the periphery, the multitudes of little feet might travel through our old and new streets to the fields and lanes beyond, their little minds being expanded by observation and comments as they travelled along, their physical powers, imperceptibly but enjoyably, gaining augmented strength to fit them for the better performance of their in-door work.

## Inspector of Nuisances Report.

Mr. Penny informs me that he issued 134 notices during the year 1895, viz :

- 63 for defective cesspools.
- 28 „ the removal of swine.
- 9 „ defective ashpits.
- 10 „ the removal of manure.
- 6 „ bad privy accommodation.
- 3 „ dirty slaughter-houses.
- 2 „ dirty cowsheds
- 5 „ defective drains.
- 8 „ various other insanitary matters.

and all his notices were attended to. Mr. Penny also stoved and otherwise disinfected some houses in which there had been some infectious diseases.

## Personal.

During the year I examined many houses and such as have structural defects of a remediable character were specially attended to; the smaller offenders had their errors rectified. I append a few items in calendarial order:—

- 1 Jan. Accompanied by the I. N. I visited a slaughterhouse in Pleasant Place and examined a beast, but could not condemn the meat as being unfit for human food.
- 2 Mar. 89 Bridge Street I found overcrowded, and ordered two boys to sleep elsewhere.
- 3 May Sent I. N. to examine a privy in Barnaby's Yard which abutted against 51 North Street, where there were some bad cases of fever.
- 4 June Sent I. N. to inspect an ashpit and privy in Lord Street.
- 5 „ Wrote I. N. about some ashpits on Morton Terrace.
- 6 July Visited a Dressmaker's working apartmehts and induced the proprietor to make certain costly alterations, which I thought necessary for the health of the workpeople.
- 7 „ Examined some houses and gave instructions for their disinfection after typhoid fever.
- 8 „ Reported ashpits and privies in Albion Terrace.
- 9 „ Examined Workshop in Lord Street and approved of the sanitary arrangement.
- 10 Aug. Visited 19 Prospect Terrace and found a case of Scarlatina which had come from Doncaster and consulted with the Doctor in attendance.
- 11 „ Visited a house in Northolme and consulted with the Doctors attending some cases of Typhoid.
- 12 „ Reported the stopping up of a sewer by the frost in Gurnhill's Yard—and pointed out the injurious consequences of such neglect
- 13 „ Reported the filthy state of Jerrems Street, &c.
- 14 „ Visited house in South View, Tooley Street, and gave directions for disinfection after fever.
- 15 „ „ Northolme „ „
- 16 „ „ Willoughby Street „ „
- 17 „ „ Linden Terrace „ „
- 18 Sept. Sent I. N. to examine a house in Spring Place.
- 19 „ „ „ „ some pigsties in Church Street.
- 20 Oct. Accompanied by the I. N. inspected Davy and Lord's tan yard and reported thereon, and subsequently gave evidence at the trial which resulted in a conviction and an alteration of the premises and surroundings.

- 21 Nov. Visited a house in Hickman Street, and gave directions for disinfection for Scarlatina.
- 22 „ Visited the Isolation Hospital with the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, and reported on its condition.
- 23 „ Visited several houses in different parts of the town for Whooping Cough.
- 24 Dec. Visited more houses for Whooping Cough and stopped the children's schooling.
- 25 „ Some children were kept from School on account of the Mumps.
- 26 „ The Scarlatina, fortunately, had its wings clipped and so did not travel far, though the last case was not marked cured when the old year died.
- 27 „ Many cases of typhoid and continued fever were brought to my notice during the year all over the town, and such means were adopted for the attenuation of their virulency and the arresting of their diffusion as were deemed expedient, complete isolation being beyond our power.
- 28 „ Then as to the Influenza in its tripartite—nervous, gastric and pulmonary—forms—with its climax of fatality in September—we had it as an involuntary visitor all the year round, for so indisposed was it to provoke any jealousy among our peace-loving people that it seldom passed a house without giving a call!
- 29 „ Anonyme—a catching disease! I know not why, but I sometimes receive letters unsigned by the authors, which, of course, I cannot answer. Allow me to inform my correspondents that I am not the Inspector of Nuisances, nor am I unapproachable to any one who has just cause of complaint against unhealthy surroundings.
- 30 „ Truth and courage should always be linked, like wrist studs!

## The Isolation Hospital.

Ready but not wanted was our building on the hill, for the Meccan Pilgrims made not their appearance, nor were our shores assailed by the plague from Hong Kong.

Our reserve forces were at our command; for the beds were aired, the stoves and tubes all tested, the apparatuses in the kitchen prepared for immediate use and the whole staff of officials were within easy call; but the bell never rang and the dog never barked, and there was nothing for any one to do, save to stop the spiders from killing the flies and keeping the rust away.

Ready but not wanted for what the Hospital was then prepared; but wanted it was nevertheless, since a few of the bad cases in the town

ought to have been sent there for their own and the public good. Isolated they ought to have been but could not be by any means at their individual disposal; and the tariff of our establishment was prohibitive.

Now that we are becoming a large and growing population with proportionally increasing wants and responsibilities, I trust it will soon be deemed expedient to admit—without pecuniary considerations—all proper cases of infectious diseases for treatment and effective isolation.

And then the “notification” now so general among the advanced towns and districts can be adopted and fully carried out.

The folded umbrella smiles at the threatening clouds.

## Precautions against Zymotic Diseases.

The poor we have always with us, Zymotic diseases are not often far away, so I venture to repeat my brief cautionary notes for all whom they may concern.

### PERSONAL.

- 1 Cleanliness of person, house and surroundings. Baths.
- 2 Diet, wholesome, sufficient, but not superabundant.
- 3 Fresh air, out-door, indoor, in unstinted quantity,
- 4 Water, well boiled before it is drunk, so long as there is any river or other impure admixture.
- 5 Warmth, high or low temperature alike to be avoided.
- 6 Sleep, in sufficient quantity according to nature's demands.
- 7 Diarrhoea; of all the premonitory signs of serious mischief this is one of the most emphatic and should never be neglected. Putting off is death inviting and extremely censurable.

### GENERAL.

- 8 Privy—Middens and Ashpits should be frequently emptied and always disinfected before the removal of the debris, for, though the night is the appointed time for the scavenger's official work, darkness does not destroy the mephitic air, and sleepers less than the wakeful possess the power of resistance to such unwholesome companionship.

Moreover, many people, especially in hot weather, keep their bedroom windows open, regardless of what may prove to be worse than a problematical good. Locomotion befriends the day.

- 9 Limewash should be in universal use.

- 10 Pigsties, cowsheds and slaughterhouses should be unremittingly supervised and all accumulations of refuse, however produced, should be quickly destroyed by incineration or otherwise.
- 11 Sewers should be frequently and thoroughly flushed; and every leakage should be hermetically sealed; cesspools should be cleaned out or removed, and gully—siphons should become the universal substitutes. Of course, the sewers should always be well ventilated; and stinks of any kind should not be allowed to exist.
- 12 Disinfectants should be liberally distributed.
- 13 The Isolation Hospital should always be ready for the reception of sufferers from Infectious Diseases.

## The Water.

Upon the whole the water supply this year has been good; but until the duplicate well is finished we must expect brief intervals during which we shall have to get it from the Trent, experience having shown us that machinery will come to grief sometimes. And when the water does come from the river, we know about it and ought to boil it.

Still there are people who will not adopt even this simple expedient, but drink the polluted stuff and expect their stomachs to do the cooking! Others imagine that what is not seen is not there, our Microscope's teaching notwithstanding. One of my anonymous correspondents informed me that on his return to a tap which he had left running he found coming with the water a large worm which he afterwards transferred to his garden when it wriggled its way to "another place." Of course that was an exceptional worm—a sharp-witted—aristocratic—enterprising—heroic—worm with a love of adventure in its composition, and strongly marked too, because it left its mother when very young, floated up the pipe from the river to the waterworks, crept through the sand there undetected, got into the circulating stream, visited most, if not all, the underground town, heard talking above it, selected its food with rare sagacity and, finally, when it had explored every nook and corner and before it became too corpulent, it made its way to an unguarded tap with the intention of climbing and examining the sweeter regions higher up.

Now, if sewer water—half and half—can aid in the development of such adventurous and heroic spirits as this worm was, can we wonder at some people, especially loving mothers, liking just a wee drop of impurity in what they drink?

What do our Whitehouses and our Goods imbibe? and what did their "Mas" take?

But the well is getting deeper—

And looming in the distance is  
The vast polluted stream.

## Baths.

The desire for Baths at the north end of the town remains unsatisfied, and will not, I fear, be gratified before our Agricultural Show, when our visitors might be invited to take an enjoyable dip.

Love Lane, the sight I formerly recommended, would, I still think, be a very eligible situation, and the sort of establishment I suggested retains my approval.

The existing Baths answer a very useful purpose and have been, no doubt, the means of contributing health and happiness to a great many people; but our town has outgrown the accommodation there rendered and the number of people now living in another sphere of influence make it imperative that their health and comfort should also be considered, and the inhabitants of the north should be made not less important than those who reside at the southern end.

The New Baths should, of course, be an improvement on the old ones, and in keeping with advancing requirements, for every one is moving on the upward line, safely, we hope, but upward. They should possess all the advantages the modern Architect can design, with moderate means only at command. But hot baths, dressing rooms and really capacious swimming baths should be deemed a *sine qua non*, the link, the covered terrace, the bay for the band and a refreshment room being provided for in the place and erected if and when the means and the approval of those most interested sanctioned the completion of the work so well begun.

## Streets.

Our streets are the wonder of our age, they run up so quickly, and like good boys, they improve as they grow. Generally speaking they are aesthetically and symbolically planned, the Surveyor's and Architect's knowing that a straight line is indicative of rectitude, and a broad street permits the expansion of the joyful lung; while curves represent beauty and were brought out after nature had finished her apprenticeship; so that, with beauty and rectitude combined, we shall soon have what the grandest cities of ancient and modern time tried and still try to excel in. Besides these parallelograms, which are linked like long chains, the artistic effect of light and shade seems to have been cared for and the more bashful of the buildings have been allowed to recede from the general line or the bolder ones have pushed forward, regardless of the other's light. Still we are advancing, and when our destructive and constructive education is finished, trip-trains to New Gainsborough will add materially to the Railway funds. Perfection however is not the work of a day and we must be content to keep moving slowly forward, planning good broad streets with well-arranged houses for those with the higher skill and wage, and suitable homes for the less favoured of the honest poor. And these comfortable little places, I notice, with much pleasure,

are rising apace. And I have observed that the builders have not been heedless of suggestions in the past and I hope they will not be in the future, nor yet now when I ask them not to forget to carry their ventilators a little bit higher and out of reach of windows and chimney tops; not to neglect the proper disconnection of the outside and inside drains, but always to appeal to the Surveyor when in doubt as to the better of two plans; always to remember the use of fireplaces in bedrooms, and lastly not to begrudge an inch or two more of wood in the width of the stairs and the utility of a handrail of wood or iron or rope. What I said about the patented constructions for lofty windows which might be cleaned from the inside, needs not, I am sure, any further reminder, since the saving of life is the matter in issue and philanthropy the index fingers.

## Reflection.

O how I tremble when I pass along these well paved, nicely planted and picturesque streets and avenues and hear the mocking winds call out with uncharitable emphasis, Doctor! Ah! ah! like Othello's your occupation has gone, old boy,—or soon will be! for you have been very foolishly telling the people how to dispense with your services, stupid fellow, that you are!—Suicide!! And then when I hear the nasty, cowardly, illtempered chimney-pot from the inside of the embellished chimney call out to another chimney-pot, which bravely exposes itself to the fire of Old Boreas—"I say, crockery. down with that fellow—down with all the Doctors! We can smoke as much as we like now, for everybody's healthy and strong! Down with the Doctors! Fresh air and sunshine for ever! Little Liver Pills, good bye!"—How can I help trembling when I hear, from above, such excommnunication as that surrounding my head like a used-up-coronet, or a big cotton gig umbrella

But, see the other picture, and note how unhappy these perfected creatures would be without their Doctors! How dull the world without Esculapius and Galen; how dull without a Wells and a Lister with sharp knives pointed at the ungarnished Corpus and staring significantly, like that new-photographic apparatus, at something like a bunch of radishes with a turnip in the middle just a few inches under the frightened skin.

Before that infelicitous state of things comes to pass, I trust, an ever grateful public will remember not only to pension off all their old faithful servants, but the families of those servants for three generations more with ample means to live and learn how the great world managed to exist after all the Doctors have joined the multitude who retired long ago.

## Naming and Numbering.

A large volume might be written on the nomenclature of your streets, so numerous are they now and so suggestive of biographical memoirs, to be hereafter collated and published by a new-born Adam Stark. What a host of the great and good are daily flitting before our eyes and, perhaps, awakening in us thoughts of an undying kind, for we must think as we move along, and think, I hope, with a useful purpose too—each of us leaving something not unworthy of transcript. But honor to whom honor is due and the names we wish to honor should have some relation to the places elected for their exhibition. I will only give three names which I think should be changed:—Queen Street, Victoria Street, and Salisbury Street. The greatest Queen in the world gives title to a mere way to other insignificant places; and the name of the great Prime Minister of our great country at the present time, is, I am told, about to be appropriated by a small street which is to be act as a mere buttress to the Great Gladstone House. Empress Street will perhaps be christened after the town has been incorporated and the Town Hall in all its fulness of offices and associated Departments has been inaugurated with an ever memorable ceremony.

*Numbering of Houses.* This important matter is in progress, but as I have detected a few oversights or deviations from the established rule, you will excuse me for again pointing out the direction in which we should always move in our numbering perambulations.

Given the New Town Hall in the Market Place its legitimate claim as *Number one*, the focus of all admirers, we must then radiate in a somewhat irregular manner to the periphery or outer ring, and all the branches from such radii must be numbered, like the radii themselves, and have the odd numbers on the left and the even on the right as they move from the central point. Hence, to facilitate proceedings and with your approval, I will here state for our guidance the direction in which the arrow which leads us should always fly. The Market Place, Silver Street, Bridge Street, Lea Road, should be the first main line. Beaumont Street, Trinity Street, and the Ashcroft Road, should be the second, or leading parallel south. Church Street, and Morton Terrace—should be the third main line—or mainline north; and Crowgarth and the new street leading to Albany Grove and to Morton and the Cemetery, should be considered the west parallel—and North Street, the East parallel of Church Street. As Lord Street extends from the river to the M. S. & L. Railway, and cuts the north and south parallels at right angles and divides the town into two parts, and is only a short street, and traverses the whole of one side of the Market Place, it should, I think, be regarded an exception and take its numbering, as it now does, from the Trent. All the cross streets leading from these main streets or roads should begin their numbering at the point nearest to the Town Hall on the most direct line and this instruction should be logically followed. It is not so now, for some of the streets are ambidextrous, and reverse the order of the next, though leading from the same uninjured spine. Lindum Terrace, Clinton Terrace, Stanley Street, Jerrems Street—to wit. Also Long Row and the elbow of Arkwright Street.

## Abattoir.

For 40 years or more Sir George Buchanan M.D., F.R.S., the late head of the Medical Department of L. G. B. studied the subject of Epidemic Disease in all its varied aspects, and gave special attention to the diseases of animals, the way in which they were killed and how the meat was distributed for our use as food; and he came to the conclusion that slaughter-houses should be abolished and abattoirs be provided where inspection by proper persons could be made in something more than the perfunctory manner often adopted. Our Abattoir is not yet ready.

## The Cemeteries

The Gainsborough Burial Board, as recorded in the excellent report of its chairman, Mr. Thompson, was elected in May, 1873, and dissolved in December, 1894, soon after attaining its majority, by edict of the legislature. Its existence was short, but the work it did was useful, honourable and longlasting. The old churchyard had been pronounced overcrowded and, of course, insanitary, and a new area for the entombment of our dead was imperatively demanded. After sundry suggestions and nerve-calming about geological strata and living surroundings, the present site on Cox's Hill was purchased and artistically laid out, but no one then imagined that the few acres of sward before him could ever be so transformed as to elicit from a Bishop of Lincoln the complimentary exclamation, "that our Cox's Hill was the most beautiful cemetery in his diocese!" And as such this cemetery has provided not only a resting place for our hopeful departed, but a pleasure ground for those who desire to meditate on the deeds of the deceased amid flowers and the other soothing monitors which nature has so graciously formed for our enjoyment.

In the report referred to, Mr. Thompson remarked that Dr. Hoffman, Inspector of Burial Boards, expressed his unqualified approval and said, "That though he had visited many cemeteries he had not seen one so well kept as this of ours," and he praised the ground-keeper, Mr. Foster. This is all very encouraging but it enhances our regret that Sir H. B. Bacon's offer of 700 yards more land for planting and ornamentation could not be accepted through a technical difficulty.

At my recent visit to this cemetery I could not help thinking that if the Bishop and the Inspector who were so well pleased before, when we were in a state of pupilage, what would they say now when they beheld the improvement since effected; for, truly, their admiration would be great and our satisfaction would not be easily expressed.

And pondering what our eyes surveyed who could escape the thought that—rich and poor alike here rest in peace, their perishable tenements returning to the primordial elements whence they sprang, whilst their

imponderable spirits perchance are hovering around, happy in their unfettered existence and whispering, it may be, to the soothing Zephyrs the joy they feel at the beautiful sight. For in few other ways could their memories be more gratefully perpetuated than by the adornment with nature's own beautiful works as here made manifest, in all the fulness of silent eloquence by loving artistic hands !

To the end of 1894 there had been in this cemetery 3336 interments, and  
 „ 1895 „ „ „ „ 261 more interments  
 equal 3597.

In the North Warren Cemetery, which is kept in good condition, there were in 1895 twenty-six interments, which added to the 173 before recorded since this cemetery was purchased by the Burial Board in May 1890—equal 199 interments; leaving, according to Mr. Thompson's calculation in his report, 731 grave spaces, i e., Mr. Thompson's number— $757 - 26 = 731$ .

## The Trent

Our Trent water continues to be sewer-polluted, and naturally becomes more septic as our population increases, the outlets of our drainage remain<sup>1</sup> the same. For though we have a fine tidal stream which eagerly conducts our debris from its constantly depositing source, the returning up-waves bring much of it back again as a venee<sup>2</sup> to our banks, and thus poisons the air, the water and ourselves a second time. And many of those who go out in small boats and who tarry near the river sides when the tide is low must have felt the depressing effects of their unsavoury proximity to unhealthy ground. I have heard of such. From a distance the river is inviting, but, like the snow, beneath its seeming purity is sometimes concealed the microbial provokers of death and disease.

The antidote for this bane is the diversion of the sewage and its deodorisation and disinfection before being laid on the land where it ought to be profitably distributed. But this must be the work of a future day.

Herewith I enclose the excellent report of our Surveyor and Architect Mr. Riley, in which you will read his notes on the conveyance and destruction of debris in its several forms—what has been done, is being done, and what should be done. Mr. Riley agrees with me that the water-carriage fœcal material is the best, but to do it now without contaminating the Trent is beyond our power, save at a ruinous immediate outlay. He therefore thinks, and I agree with him, that it is expedient to adopt the Goux system *in its integrity*, that being, in our opinion, the best for our purpose. For it would not only assist in the purification of

the river-water by reducing the aggregate of the sewer deposit, but it would do away with many of the abominable stinks which so constantly assault our noses whenever we go on our exploring rounds; and it could I am told, be worked at a small expense, the sale of the useful product being one likely to be encouraged. It must, however, be *Goux's system*, and not a go-between a good thing and a bad one.

I have been with Mr. Riley and have examined some of the boxes and their accompaniments and consider them a vast improvement on the old privies and tubs, however well attended to. Moreover the health of our people would be safeguarded by the adoption of Goux, and the Trent made more inviting to the salmon and our other finny friends.

## The Small Pox.

Mr. Ogle informs me that "up to the 31st December, 1895" there were in our Urban District no less a number than 1440 children unvaccinated!

Gloucester went wrong and was *pitted*: we shall be whipped!

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. MACKINDER, M.D.

The Cedars,

May 17th, 1896.

Monthly Summary of the Weather in 1895.

Local rainfall, in inches.	Dry Days.	Wet Days.	One inch of rain is equal to 100 tons on an acre of ground.				
January	2.62	14	1.62	0.25	....	12	19
February	0.19	6	0.22	1.39	....	24	4
March	2.37	15	1.45	....	0.21	11	20
April	1.63	11	1.37	0.75	....	18	12
May	0.66	6	0.47	1.31	....	25	6
June	1.80	10	0.21	2.27	....	22	8
July	4.11	17	3.39	....	0.76	15	16
August	1.62	16	2.15	0.54	....	16	15
September	0.52	7	0.94	1.49	....	25	5
October	2.62	14	2.70	0.24	....	16	15
November	2.28	19	3. 0	....	0.62	12	18
December	1.57	12	1.95	0.12	...	16	15
Total	21.99	218 = 365	19.47	9 months 8.63	3 months 1.59	212 = 365	153

Register of Births and Deaths in the Urban District Council of Gainsborough.

[illegible]



# LOCAL RAINFALL, 1885.

34

April	April	May	May	June	June
1	0.04	17	0.31	1	0.64
2	..	18	..	2	0.10
3	0.10	19	..	3	..
4	..	20	..	4	..
5	..	21	..	5	..
6	0.02	22	..	6	..
7	..	23	..	7	..
8	..	24	..	8	..
9	..	25	..	9	..
10	..	26	..	10	..
11	..	27	..	11	0.04
12	..	28	0.05	12	..
13	..	29	..	13	..
14	..	30	..	14	..
15	..	31	..	15	..
16	..		..	16	..
Total 1.63		Total 0.66		Total 1.80	
20 days no rain		25 days no rain		20 days no rain	

# LOCAL RAINFALL, 1895.

July	July	August	August	September	September
1	0.14	17	0.02	1	..
2	0.12	18	0.05	2	..
3	0.36	19	0.26	3	0.02
4	0.12	20	0.08	4	0.03
5	..	21	..	5	..
6	..	22	0.01	6	0.14
7	..	23	..	7	..
8	..	24	0.07	8	..
9	..	25	..	9	..
10	..	26	0.10	10	0.22
11	0.19	27	0.03	11	0.08
12	0.13	28	..	12	..
13	..	29	0.04	13	..
14	..	30	0.18	14	..
15	..	31	0.02	15	0.02
16	0.04		..	16	..
Total 4.11		Total 1.62		Total 0.52	
14 days no rain		15 days no rain		23 days no rain	

LOCAL RAINFALL, 1895.

October		November		November		December		December	
1	0.05	17	..	17	..	1	..	17	..
2	0.01	18	..	18	..	2	..	18	..
3	0.22	19	..	19	..	3	0.02	19	..
4	4.05	20	0.05	20	0.07	4	0.05	20	..
5	0.20	21	0.28	21	0.39	5	0.01	21	..
6	..	22	..	22	0.02	6	0.21	22	0.07
7	0.07	23	..	23	0.02	7	0.02	23	0.08
8	0.83	24	0.04	24	0.30	8	..	24	0.08
9	0.13	25	..	25	0.04	9	..	25	..
10	..	26	0.19	26	0.15	10	..	26	..
11	..	27	..	27	0.03	11	0.28	27	..
12	..	28	..	28	..	12	0.12	28	0.30
13	..	29	..	29	..	13	0.30	29	0.35
14	..	30	0.16	30	0.04	14	0.06	30	0.03
15	0.34	31	..		0.14	15	..	31	
16	..		..		0.03	16	0.04		
Total 2.62		Total 2.28		Total 1.57		Total 1.57		Total 1.57	
17 days no rain		11 days no rain		19 days no rain		19 days no rain		19 days no rain	

*Other Meteorological Observations concerning the Temperature,  
Wind, &c., recorded since the 3rd week in Sept., 1895.*

Sept.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.		Oct.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.		Oct.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.	
	Min.	Max.				Min.	Max.				Min.	Max.		
22	32°	...	.....		4	44°	58°	.....		19	28°	56°	.....	
23	...	82°	.....		5	32°	58°	.....		20	30°	55°	.....	
24	...	82°	.....		6	45°	66°	.....		21	28°	48°	.....	
25	...	84°	.....		7	36°	48°	.....		22	38°	46°	.....	
26	66°	84°	.....		8	44°	60°	.....		23	28°	47°	.....	
27	...	...	.....		9	42°	53°	.....		24	22°	48°	.....	
28	45°	83°	.....		10	43°	56°	.....		25	25°	46°	.....	
29	42°	82°	.....		11	30°	55°	.....		26	22°	42°	.....	
30	42°	76°	.....		12	46°	56°	.....		27	21°	45°	.....	
					13	40°	54°	.....		28	21°	44°	.....	
					14	43°	56°	.....		29	22°	43°	.....	
Oct.	41°	74°	.....		15	46°	58°	.....		30	24°	43°	.....	
1	46°	65°	.....		16	40°	54°	.....		31	38°	48°	.....	
2	32°	59°	.....		17	29°	58°	.....						
3			.....		18	28°	55°	.....						

# *Other Meteorological Observations—continued.*

Nov.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.	Nov.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.	Dec.	Temperature		Direction of Wind.
	Min.	Max.			Min.	Max.			Min.	Max.	
1	30°	48°	.....	16	48°	62°	.....	1	32°	48°	.....
2	38°	51°	.....	17	36°	58°	.....	2	33°	48°	.....
3	29°	44°	.....	18	29°	47°	.....	3	40°	40°	.....
4	38°	45°	.....	19	30°	47°	.....	4	35°	35°	.....
5	39°	46°	.....	20	38°	48°	.....	5	46°	54°	.....
6	45°	56°	.....	21	45°	48°	.....	6	36°	42°	.....
7	45°	53°	.....	22	44°	54°	.....	7	30°	35°	.....
8	41°	55°	.....	23	30°	40°	.....	8	28°	38°	.....
9	43°	50°	.....	24	29°	45°	.....	9	27°	46°	.....
10	37°	52°	.....	25	39°	43°	.....	10	34°	44°	.....
11	42°	54°	.....	26	37°	44°	.....	11	27°	37°	.....
12	36°	49°	.....	27	33°	44°	.....	12	29°	42°	.....
13	33°	51°	.....	28	43°	46°	.....	13	32°	41°	.....
14	37°	53°	.....	29	44°	48°	.....	14	27°	40°	.....
15	32°	48°	.....	30	45°	47°	.....	15	40°	44°	.....

*Other Meteorological Observations—continued.*

Dec.	Temperature Min.    Max.	Direction of Wind.	Dec.	Temperature Min.    Max.	Direction of Wind.
16	30°    41°	.....	31	40°    46°	.....
17	37°    44°	.....			
18	29°    38°	.....			
19	28°    40°	.....			
20	27°    36°	.....			
21	27°    34°	.....			
22	20°    30°	.....			
23	33°    36°	.....			
24	35°    36°	.....			
25	30°    32°	.....			
26	30°    32°	.....			
27	32°    36°	.....			
28	29°    35°	.....			
29	35°    45°	.....			
30	39°    51°	.....			

*Supplement to Annual Report for 1895.*


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# VACCINATION.

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What are the Mothers thinking of—  
     Good looking Mothers too—  
 When Jenner's great discovery  
     They foolishly pooh ! pooh !  
 And seem to fancy all is true  
     That untaught men proclaim  
 With trumpet tongue, while learned men,  
     More modest, they defame ?  
 Their daughters surely should they grow  
     To marriageable age  
 Will something have unkind to say  
     Of what would Saints enrage.  
 A something 'bout their lips and cheeks  
     And e'en the bridge of nose,  
 The honey-combing of their breasts  
     And arms and legs and toes ;  
 An eye that's blind—both may be so—  
     An ear that's deaf as well ;  
 And no one wishing them to kiss  
     Or tale of love to tell !

Oh ! mothers, think what you have been  
     So beautiful and fair,  
 Like roses' opening blooms and sweet  
     As Sun-lit perfumed air.  
 Think of your charms, and how the men  
     Could scarcely pass you by,  
 Like bees upon a honey raid  
     Unmoved by Zephyr's sigh.

Think of the joys which heaven sent  
     In all its kindest ways  
 To fill your cup of happiness  
     On bright and dull wet days :  
 And e'en when sorrows floated o'er  
     Like clouds to cool the brain,  
 Think how the rainbow soothed your fears  
     And gave you joy again !

But they, yes *they, your children dear*  
 By love eternal planned  
 And modelled with artistic care  
 By Nature's Sculptor's hand  
 Are now, forsooth, less worthy deemed  
 To occupy the place  
 Which once their parents used to fill  
 With so much youthful grace.

Can this be true? I trow, 'tis not.  
 As yet it may be said  
 Britannia's daughters lead the way  
 Their lovely mothers led  
 Along the path where Flora had  
 Her cherished treasures spread  
 For fairy forms to amble o'er  
 And bridal feet to tread.

But stay. For these my warning words  
 Must not be faintly told ;—  
 Good looks retained and health preserved  
 Are better far than gold :  
 Prevention is my theme. I write  
 To guard unguarded mind  
 Against the stumbling blocks oft thrown  
 Like chains poor slaves to bind.

Slaves not of ebon-colored skin  
 Alone of all our race,  
 But slaves of ignorance untold  
 And knowledge out of place.  
 I write to tell the thousandth time  
 What noble Jenner hailed  
 Ere science sang its pæan of  
 The mystery unveiled.

A pestilence, like tempest strong,  
 Invaded our fair land,  
 More dreaded than the cannon's boom  
 Or bayoneted hand ;  
 It sought out every tempting nook  
 Where children like to roam,  
 The cot beside the rippling brook,  
 The City's gilded home.

Nor age nor sex escaped its grasp.  
 The distant and the near  
 Of kin alike were seized upon,  
 In high and lowly sphere,  
 Then killed ; or maimed before the eyes  
 Of weeping friends around,  
 And left to linger life's full term  
 On sorrow-stricken ground.

When Jenner came the smallpox paled  
 Before his sacred light,  
 Which turned to day and brighter hours  
 The darkness of the night.  
 By rare imborn sagacity,  
 Lit by a glowing spark  
 From unseen anvil struck above  
 His genius to mark,

He saw what none before had seen !  
 Her veil dame Nature raised  
 Just for a moment—twas enough—  
 The wise world stood amazed— !  
 For Jenner's introspective mind  
 A sequence grand foretold,  
 More precious than a gem-stood crown  
 Of ermined band and gold.

And far up in the future men  
 Descried the priceless boon  
 Which Jenner without patent right  
 Would give Mankind—and soon.  
 For ere the scientist had tried  
 His wonders to reveal  
 Of busy microscopic life  
 Our Jenner broke the seal  
 Which Nature fixed long years before,  
 In babyhood of time,  
 Her noblest secrets to conceal  
 From any less sublime.

'Twas Jenner found the antidote  
 For Mortals' loathsome bane,  
 And thousands upon thousands have  
 Been saved from grief and pain ;

An e'en from Death's remorseless hand,  
 The great, the rich, the poor  
 Have been preserved in every clime  
 The great round world all o'er !

And millions yet will him proclaim  
*As Jenner ever blest !*  
 Bright as the brilliant evening star  
 Outvieing all the rest !

What are our Mothers thinking of ?—  
 And English Mothers too—  
 When Jenner's great discovery  
 They foolishly pooh ! pooh !  
 All science now the reason tells,  
 What he did not explain,  
 Why 'tis that 'tis the lesser force  
 The greater does restrain !

Great soul of Pasteur wake, arise  
 And wipe the tears from Jenner's eyes !

D. M.





